E1.28: SOLAR/1030-79/01



SOLAR/1030-79/01



# Monthly Performance Report

CHESTER WEST
JANUARY 1979



# U.S. Department of Energy

National Solar Heating and Cooling Demonstration Program

**National Solar Data Program** 



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## MONTHLY PERFORMANCE REPORT

CHESTER WEST

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## I. SYSTEM DESCRIPTION

The Chester West site is a single-family residence in Huntsville, Alabama. Solar energy is used for space heating the home and preheating domestic hot water (DHW). The solar energy system has an array of flat-plate collectors with a gross area of 225 square feet. The array faces south at an angle of 49 degrees to the horizontal. A glycerol-water solution is used as the medium for delivering solar energy from the collector array to storage, and water is the medium for delivering solar energy from storage to the space heating and hot water loads. Solar energy is stored aboveground in a 500-gallon water storage tank. Auxiliary space heating is provided by an air-to-air heat pump and electrical heating elements which are designed to function in parallel with the solar energy space heating loop. Auxiliary hot water heating is provided in series with the solar energy hot water heating loop through the use of electrical heating elements in an 80-gallon DHW tank. The system, shown schematically in Figure 1, has three modes of solar operation.

<u>Mode 1 - Collector-to-Storage</u>: This mode activates when the control system senses a sufficient temperature difference between the collector and storage and remains active until the temperature difference drops below the accepted minimum. The collected energy is transferred to storage through a ring-type, liquid-to-liquid heat exchanger located in the storage tank. Pump Pl is operating.

Mode 2 - Storage-to-Space Heating: This mode activates when there is a demand for space heating. Solar energy is circulated to the conditioned space by solar heated water from storage through a liquid-to-air heat exchanger located in the air-distribution duct. Pump P3 is operating.

<u>Mode 3 - Storage-to-DHW Tank</u>: This mode activates when the control system senses a sufficient temperature difference between storage and the DHW tank, and remains active as long as a sufficient difference exists. Water circulates from the top of storage through a liquid-to-liquid heat exchanger located in the bottom of the DHW tank. Pump P2 is operating.

## II. PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

## INTRODUCTION

The site was occupied in January and the solar energy system operated continuously during the month. Solar energy satisfied 6 percent of the space heating requirements. In supporting the space heating requirements, the solar energy system provided electrical energy savings of 0.41 million Btu. The solar energy system also supported the DHW subsystem during the month. However, a

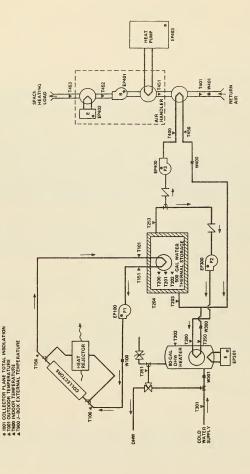


Figure 1. CHESTER WEST SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEM SCHEMATIC

problem with the sensor measuring the flow of solar heated water from storage to the DHW subsystem produced invalid data. This problem invalidated many performance factors of the DHW and storage subsystems.

## WEATHER CONDITIONS

During the month, total incident solar energy on the collector array was 5.1 million Btu for a daily average of 728 Btu per square foot. This was below the estimated average daily solar radiation for this geographical area during January of 1002 Btu per square foot for a south-facing plane with a tilt of 49 degrees to the horizontal. The average ambient temperature during January was  $34^{\circ}\mathrm{F}$  as compared with the long-term average for January of 41°F. The number of heating degree-days for the month (based on a 65°F reference) was 973, as compared with the long-term average of 747.

## THERMAL PERFORMANCE

<u>Collector</u> - The total incident solar radiation on the collector array for the month of January was 5.1 million Btu. During the period the collector loop was operating, the total insolation amounted to 4.0 million Btu. The total collected solar energy for the month of January was 2.0 million Btu, resulting in a collector array efficiency of 39 percent, based on total incident insolation. Solar energy delivered from the collector array to storage was 1.8 million Btu. Energy loss during transfer from the collector array to storage was 0.2 million Btu. This loss represented 10 percent of the energy collected. Operating energy required by the collector loop was 0.16 million Btu.

 $\underline{Storage}$  - Solar energy delivered to storage was 1.8 million Btu. There were  $\overline{0.77}$  million Btu delivered from storage to the space heating subsystem. The average storage temperature for the month was 84°F.

<u>DHW Load</u> - The DHW subsystem consumed an unknown amount of solar energy and 0.66 million Btu of auxiliary electrical energy to satisfy a hot water load of 0.39 million Btu. The DHW subsystem consumed a total of 0.12 million Btu of operating energy. A daily average of 17 gallons of DHW was consumed at an average temperature of 140°F delivered from the tank.

Space Heating Load - Six percent of the 13.4 million Btu space heating load was satisfied by 0.77 million Btu of solar energy. An auxiliary electrical heat pump and resistance heater used 11.5 million Btu of electrical energy to satisfy the remaining 12.6 million Btu space heating load. This auxiliary requirement indicated a heat pump operating below its optimum performance level with most of the auxiliary support coming from the resistance heater. The space heating subsystem consumed a total of 0.80 million Btu of operating energy, resulting in an electrical energy savings of 0.41 million Btu.

## OBSERVATIONS

Problems existed with liquid flow sensors in both the DHW and space heating loops. In the latter case a fall-back position to the air side of the space  $\frac{1}{2}$ 

heating subsystem was possible. However, the problem did invalidate many DHW and storage performance factors. Additional anomalies in the DHW subsystem loop should be noted. The DHW pump remained on too long and this resulted in some energy being removed from the DHW subsystem and returned to storage. The actual amount was unmeasured, but believed to be relatively small. Also, there was an unmeasured storage energy loss due to a slight water seepage from the storage tank.

### ENFRGY SAVINGS

The space heating subsytem contributed an electrical energy savings of 0.41 million Btu.

## III. ACTION STATUS

A new storage tank is to be installed. The operation of the flow sensors in the DHW and space heating loops are to be investigated during the next site visit by Boeing. The system designer is investigating pump operation in the DHW loop.

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